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THE LIBRARY ASSISTANTS' ASSOCIATION.

FOUNDED 1895. THIRD SESSION. YEAR 1897-8.

Members are requested to carefully read the announcements appearing on this page, as no further intimation of meetings and other arrangements will be sent out.

APRIL MEETING.

A meeting will be held at 8 p.m. on Wednesday, April 6th, at 20, Hanover Square, when Mr. J. Potter Briscoe, F.R.H.S., Librarian of Nottingham, Vice-President of the Library Association, and Hon. Sec. of the North Midland L.A., will read a paper, entitled "A Well-equipped Public Library."

MAY MEETING.

A meeting will be held at 8 p.m. on Wednesday, May 4th, at Poplar Central Library, High Street, Poplar, E., Mr. R. Newman, Chairman of the Poplar Library Committee, in the chair; when the Librarian, Mr. Harry Rowlatt, will read a paper on "Library Accounts." Members who are desirous of attending this meeting may obtain, on application to the Editor, examples of the method of book-keeping used, in the shape of some model accounts, which have been prepared in illustration of the address by Mr. Rowlatt.

Trains direct to Poplar from Broad Street, or to West India Dock from Fenchurch Street, or 'bus and tram to Woodstock Road from Aldgate (M. & D. Rys.)

MARCH MEETING.

The sixth meeting of the Session was held at 8 p.m. on Wednesday, March 2nd, at Cripplegate Institute. Mr. H. R. Tedder, President of the Library Association, was in the chair, and the attendance was very large. An excellent paper, entitled "The Future of London's Public Libraries," was delivered by Mr. Thomas Mason, Librarian of St. Martin's, and Vice-President of the Library Association. A lengthy discussion followed, in which Messrs. Carter, Dyer, Peddie, Bursill, Ogle, Roberts, Hogg, Chambers, and the Chairman took part. The general opinion of the meeting favoured a Library

ENTERED AT STATIONERS' HALL

Board for the whole of the Metropolis, but the alternative scheme of dividing London into districts with a Central Library and branches for each was also well received. After a vote of thanks to Mr. Mason, and a reply from him, a vote of thanks was accorded to the Chairman. In replying, Mr. Tedder congratulated the L.A.A. on the position it had now attained, and complimented the members on the admirable and sensible discussion that had taken place. He remarked that it had given him the greatest pleasure to preside at that meeting, and that, as President of the Library Association, he welcomed the efforts of the L.A.A. in stimulating the interest of junior librarians in their profession.

At this meeting was exhibited, by the courtesy of Messrs. Karslake, of 61, Charing Cross Road, a number of highly artistic bindings by women binders, including specimens from the Royal School of Art Needlework, the Chiswick Art-Workers Guild, the Working Ladies' Guild, and other centres, which were much admired.

SOCIAL MEETING.

The Third Annual Concert took place on the 16th March, at the Whittington Hall, Moor Lane, E.C., the Chairman presiding. There was a large attendance, and a long and varied programme was contributed by members and friends. Among artists deserving special mention were the accomplished pianist, Mr. T. H. Yeldham, M.M.; Mr. W. Carlton-Smith, whose dialect ditties were encored each time; Master Percy Bishop, whose "Holy City" well deserved the applause it gained; Mr. B. H. Langworthy, whose "Good Company" recalled similar successes at Cripplegate, St. Martin's, and Anderton's; Mr. A. Bishop, whose comic songs were excellent; and Mr. Harry Dyer, whose Humorous Homily caused much amusement. Among the many other items on the programme were songs, &c., by Mr. A. Nash, Mr. A. Hooper, Mr. G. Beaumont, Mr. Ted Brunn, Mr. Jack Hone, Mr. J. Schafe, and Mr. Harry Burton. A vote of thanks, on the proposition of the Chairman, was by acclamation accorded to the artists; and to Messrs. F. M. Roberts and B. L. Dyer, who had arranged the programme. After a very enjoyable evening, the meeting broke up with "Auld Lang Syne."

SUPERANNUATION.—"*The Local Authorities Officers' Superannuation Bill, 1898*," was read a first time on February 2nd, and is down for second reading on April 5th. It is under the charge of Sir H. Seymour King, K.C.I.E. (M.P. for Hull, C.)

THE LIBRARY.—Assistants, especially those attending the L.A. Classes, are reminded that the Library is deposited at St. Martin's Library, 115, St. Martin's Lane (Ref. Dpt.), and that

all members of the L.A.A. are entitled to borrow not more than two volumes at a time therefrom. Mr. J. Southward, Lecturer on Historical Printing, has recently presented a copy of his "*Progress in Printing and the Graphic Arts during the Victorian Era*," 4to, 1897.

GIFTS TO MEMBERS.—With the exception of one or two volumes allotted to members whose subscriptions are overdue, the copies of Mr. T. Greenwood's "*Library Year Book, 1897*," have now been distributed.

TEXT BOOKS FOR LIBRARY ASSISTANTS.—From the Library Supply Company comes the welcome news of a series of text books, written by experts in the different branches of the profession. The first, now in the press, is a "*Manual of Library Classification and Shelf Arrangement*," by Mr. J. D. Brown, of Clerkenwell, and will be a complete historical and practical text book, written especially to meet the wants of students of library administration. Following volumes in the series will be a "*Library Primer*" and a work on "*Cataloguing*," which will have as appendix a bibliography of bibliographical aids.

The books will be published uniformly at 3s. net, and it is to be hoped that the preliminary volumes of this series will meet with such recognition and support as to ensure its continuation.

F.M.R.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

If proof were needed that the demand voiced by the L.A.A. for classes in technology was no empty cry, the large attendance at the opening class were sufficient. The room placed at the disposal of Mr Macfarlane for his first lecture was crowded, and that even the expectations of the enthusiastic Secretary of the Education Committee were surpassed, was shown by the fact that there was not seating accommodation for all present—44 students. The attendance was smaller at Mr. Cockerell's class, being 29, and most of the students who had attended these lectures went on to Cripplegate, to hear the President of the Library Association's cheering words, and the stirring address of Mr. Mason. Truly, Wednesday, 2nd March, 1898, marked an eventful day in the history of the L.A.A.!

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The second meeting of Mr. Macfarlane's class, made larger by fresh additions, was a sight that would have delighted the eyes of the founder of the Summer School—each student busy, notebook in hand. Mr. Cockerell's second lecture was ably illustrated by a ready access to appliances, at the Central School of Arts and Crafts, Regent Street.

It is to be regretted that the Thursday classes are smaller, and that Mr. Guppy's admirable opening address should have been delivered to so small an audience (19), while the attendance at Mr. Southwards' pioneer lectures on "Historic Printing" was even smaller (9). It is to be hoped that next session arrangements may be made to hold these admirable lectures on a day when a larger number of students will be able to attend.

* * *

Among the students present at the lectures one noted representative of the library staffs so distant as Watford, West Ham, Wimbledon, and Croydon, but libraries whose librarians are active members of the L.A., and whose senior assistants are active members of the L.A.A., were quite unrepresented; and one can but think that the junior assistants have not yet been stirred up sufficiently to the importance of attending these classes. Librarians may do much to show their assistants that they appreciate their efforts to make themselves efficient. A few words of encouragement and of advice, and a little alteration of a time sheet would do more for the profession than many attendances at L.A. meetings, filled with wordy regrets at the lack of education and capacity of assistants.

In all there are 58 students attending the classes, 45 from Public Libraries under the Acts, 4 from Institutes and Polytechnics (2 Cripplegate, 1 St. Bride's, 1 Northampton), 1 from the U. E. Student's Library at Toynbee Hall, 1 from the Church House Library, and 7 unattached. Only 3 students are able to follow the whole course of lectures, but the following figures are interesting:—

	Senior	Junior	Unattached.
1 Class	11	8	1
2 Classes	19	11	5
4 Classes	2	0	1
	<hr/> 32	<hr/> 19	<hr/> 7
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

It is impossible to state definitely the number of persons employed as assistants in the Public Libraries of London and the Home Counties, but with the help of Greenwood's *Year Book*, 1897, the following self-explanatory table has been drawn up, shewing the number of assistants in Metropolitan Libraries with the addition of certain in the Home Counties.

LIBRARY.	No. of Assistants employed.	No. attending Classes.	LIBRARY.	No. of Assistants employed.	No. attending Classes.
Battersea	17	4	St. Giles	5	0
Bermondsey	5	1	St. Martin	6	1
*Camberwell... ..	16	0	St. Saviour	3	0
Chelsea	4	1	Shoreditch	8	0
Christchurch... ..	1	0	Stoke Newington ...	3	1
Clapham	2	1	Streatham	4	0
Clerkenwell	5	5	Wandsworth	5	0
Fulham	5	0	Westminster	5	0
Hammersmith	7	2	Whitechapel	5	0
Hampstead	6	3	Leyton	2	0
Holborn	2	0	West Ham	14	3
Kensington	13	5	Watford	3	2
*Lambeth	30	1	Richmond	4	0
*Minet Library ...	73	1	Chiswick	1	0
Newington	5	0	Ealing	4	0
Poplar	6	1	Tottenham... ..	2	0
Rotherhithe	4	0	Croydon	14	5
St. George, H.S. ...	11	6	Wimbledon	23	2

Total Assistants in Libraries ... 233

Total attending Classes ... 45

HONOUR to the Committee of the Croydon Public Libraries, who have, at the instigation of Mr. T. Johnston, the Librarian, been the first of the London and Home Counties Libraries to recognise that the more efficient staff they have, the better will the libraries be served, and have paid the class fees of four students! Clerkenwell and Kensington have followed suit, and there seems no better way to interest the junior assistants in professional classes than this practical sympathy.

THE Secretary of the Education Committee, has pointed out to me that it was absolutely unavoidable to have obtained an Inaugural Address from the Bishop of London on any other evening than the one fixed, and that certain words of mine with reference to this address and the admission of outsiders to the classes imply that the fixing of the date was purposely done so that assistants could not attend. Such was not my intention, and I gladly note that the fixing of such a very inconvenient date for the Inaugural Address was unavoidable, but another year I trust the Inaugural Address will be given to all the students, and on the same day as the best attended classes are held—Wednesday—by some one whose engagements will permit of a little more consideration of the very limited spare hours of library assistants.

B.L.D.

THE FUTURE OF LONDON'S PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

BY THOMAS MASON.

To all of us the future of the Public Libraries of London must be a matter of great interest, whether we view the subject from the standpoint of citizens, or the more personal position of librarians. Those of you who look forward to occupying chief librarianships in the Metropolis, and I presume you all do so, must, in common with the men in possession—the present Chief Librarians in London—view with lively concern all proposals to change the Government of London, and naturally be led to speculate as to how the Libraries may be affected by the alteration or re-arrangement of the duties and areas of local authorities. The subject is a timely one, as the air seems full of rumours of impending change. I propose to-night to speak from a point of view which I hope will commend itself to you—what is best for the Libraries of London, for those who use them, and for those who work them, and therefore, while I ask your attention and consideration to some thoughts and speculations on the probable development of the Library system of this great city in which our lot is cast, I wish you to remember that I speak neither as a Moderate or a Progressive, but as one who wishes to see the Public Libraries increased in numbers and in efficiency. If I indicate a preference for one scheme over another that is entirely because I think it the more favourable for the Libraries, and I express no opinion on the merits of the scheme as a whole. While to prophecy, unless you know, is dangerous, to think of to-morrow is proverbially wise, and the consideration of to-morrow will, in this case, I think, be materially helped by some knowledge of yesterday and to-day. Therefore I will ask your indulgence while I give a brief sketch of the Library movement in London, and indicate the position of affairs at the present moment. And here let me say that few men, if any, know more about the history of the Library movement when it commenced in earnest in London than our present chairman. The Metropolitan Public Libraries Association was largely worked by himself and the present Librarian of the Bodleian, Mr. E. B. Nicholson. The first parish in London to adopt the Libraries Act was Westminster, in 1856. A long period elapsed—17 years—before any further progress was made, when Wandsworth adopted the Acts in 1883. Three years later the extensive and important parish of Lambeth followed. The succeeding year Her Majesty's Jubilee was marked by a wholesale adoption of the Acts—no few than 10 parishes resolving to establish libraries.

Their names deserve mention—Battersea, Bermondsey, Chelsea, Clapham, Clerkenwell, Fulham, Hammersmith, Kensington, Putney, Rotherhithe, and St. Martin-in-the-Fields. The only gain in 1888 was Christ Church, Southwark, but three important districts—Camberwell, Streatham, and Whitechapel—

came into the fold in 1889. 1890 witnessed five adoptions, namely—Lewisham, Newington, Poplar, St. George, Hanover Square, and Stoke Newington. 1891 was marked by the accession of Bromley-by-Bow, Holborn, Penge, St. Giles and St. George, Bloomsbury; St. Saviour's, Southwark; and Shoreditch, seven in all. 1892 was a blank, as also was 1894, but 1893 was marked by two parishes so widely apart and so different in character as Hampstead and St. Paul, Covent Garden, adopting the Acts. Woolwich was the only addition in 1895. 1896 was notable for the fact that of the four parishes gathered in—Bow, Mile End, St. George-in-the-East, and St. George-the-Martyr, three were in the extreme East-end. During the year that has just gone, no progress was made, and this year Plumstead is, I think, the only accession to the ranks. It is only fair to mention that during the considerable period covered by the dates just given, many gallant attempts to carry the Acts into operation have been made and failed. Marylebone, Paddington, and Islington are notable instances. At the present moment 35 out of the 78 parishes and other areas in the county of London have adopted the Public Libraries' Acts. This is very fair progress, but much yet remains to be done before London is as well served as our leading provincial cities. Of the remaining 43 parishes yet in the cold, 24 are too small to maintain libraries alone, but they could, with advantage, combine with other parishes, as St. Paul, Covent Garden, has done with St. Martin-in-the-Fields. Nineteen parishes, possessing a rateable value adequate for the maintenance of a Library, have yet to establish Libraries, and I regret to say that among the 19 are some of the largest parishes in London. Islington, Paddington, Marylebone, St. Pancras, Hackney, and St. James's, Westminster, are in the list. These six parishes alone represent about a fourth of the rateable value of London, and singular to say, they are all on the north side of the Thames. This is the position to-day, and how looks the future? I must confess to feeling very doubtful indeed as to there being much further progress made, while the only method of ascertaining the opinion of parishes is by a poll of the entire electorate. At the present moment the governing body of any place in England or Scotland can decide the question themselves without polling the ratepayers as to whether they are to have a library or not. This became law the year after the Library Association's Public Library Consolidation Act was passed, but the Act does not apply to London. London was left out in the Amending Act conferring this power, on the ground that as the matter of the Government of London was likely to be the subject of legislation it would be better to exclude London from the Bill. But until London gets this power it is hardly to be expected that much progress will be made. Parishes like Islington are too large to poll, and the cost of ascertaining the opinion of the voters is really too great. No other public movement is hampered with so cumbrous a condition.

In any future Library Amending Bill the law for the Metropolis should be assimilated to that of the rest of the country, and I venture to think that one effect of the alteration would be a rapid addition to the number of rate-supported Libraries in the Metropolis. At the present moment we are hearing a great deal about re-arranging of the governing areas of London. Some advocate the establishment of large municipalities having entire control of the area entrusted to them, and with powers equal to cities like Birmingham or Liverpool. Another proposal is to grant Municipal Charters to all the present Vestries of a given size, population and rateable value, and to group the smaller Vestries. The first proposal would mean the creation of ten or twelve municipalities, and the second, the creation of about 40 municipalities. Let us consider how these alterations would affect the Libraries. Let us suppose that the Vestries were municipalised and the Library Commissioners became in every case committees of the new authority. The conversion of Boards of Commissioners into Library Committees is not for the good of the Library, in my opinion, but excepting this alteration I cannot see that the position of the Libraries would be altered, save where small parishes might be attached to larger ones and the Library area eventually extended. But if the Metropolis were divided—let us say for library purposes only—into 10 or 12 sections, there would necessarily be extensive grouping, not only of small but of large parishes, and one of the first effects would be the disappearance of the several Library Authorities in the area, and the formation of a Library Committee charged with the administration of all the Libraries existing within the jurisdiction of the new Corporation.

The new body would probably find itself in the possession of several chief librarians following different methods, one being perhaps an open access man and the other an advocate of indicators, but the strongest would prevail, and in the end London would at least have no more than 10 or 12 different methods of library administration. I venture to say that the larger the area governed by a single Library Authority the better for the Libraries and those employed in them. A great city like Birmingham erects Libraries where they are most needed, quite irrespective of whether the districts are rich or poor. And so it would doubtless be in London. If the Libraries of large parishes such as Camberwell and Lambeth, parishes as large and as populous as some leading towns in the provinces, can be successfully managed by one Library Authority, why should Londoners have to put up with insufficiently equipped Libraries because of the eccentricities and inequalities of rating boundaries. A solution of the difficulty, and I put this forward with considerable diffidence, would be to have a Library Board for the whole Metropolis. Such a Board would disregard parish boundaries, and erect Libraries where they were required; the public would get better served, and a great field for promotion being opened up assistants would be encouraged by the prospect of a comfortable

future to devote themselves earnestly and entirely to the business of librarianship. The piecemeal manner in which the Library movement has grown in London is the only manner in which the movement could possibly have grown in London. Each parish has decided the matter for itself, and gradually, one by one—sometimes after several reverses—parish by parish has been added to the list; but any enlargement of the parish boundaries, accompanied by a transference of the power of adopting the Acts from the voters to the governing body would undoubtedly give a great impetus to the Library movement in London. When the new corporations took up their duties, the most of them would find that while they looked after the cleaning, the paving, and the lighting of the whole of their district, only a portion of their constituents were served by the Public Libraries. The anomaly would doubtless soon be removed by the Council adopting the Libraries Acts for the whole of their municipality. I have said before that Library Assistants ought to be encouraged to devote themselves to the work of librarianship, and the encouragement I think, ought to take the form of adequate remuneration and the provision of means of acquiring the special knowledge necessary for the successful prosecution of our profession. The second form of encouragement is, I am glad to see, now within the reach of London Assistants, and the first is bound to follow the extension of Libraries and the raising of the standard of the qualification of the assistant. We are all interested in this, for the assistant of to-day is the librarian of to-morrow, and the Library Association owes a duty to our successors as well as to ourselves. At present I am informed there are nearly 300 persons employed in the London Libraries, the annual income is over £60,000, the annual issue of books is over four and a half millions, and probably about 20,000,000 persons use the libraries and news rooms. When artificial restrictions of boundaries have made half starved Libraries a thing of the past, and when London is supplied with Libraries in every part these figures will be vastly increased, the able assistant will be to the front, and the Londoner will surely have been roused from his apathy, and be as proud of his Libraries as the citizens of our great provincial cities are of theirs.

APPOINTMENTS.

BAILEY, Mr., of the Edinburgh Public Library, to be librarian of Kidderminster.

CLIFFORD, Mr. Frank, of Hampstead Public Libraries, to be assistant librarian of University College, London.

COOPER.—Mr. F. W., assistant, Maidstone Library, to be an assistant, Leyton.

SPARKE, Mr. George Archibald, librarian of Kidderminster, to be librarian of Carlisle.

WAGE, Mr. J. A., of Ashton-under-Lyne Library, to be librarian of Brighouse.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

Aberdeen Public Library. Catalogue of the Lending Department. 8vo. 1898. Pp. iv., 603. [A. W. Robertson, M.A., Librarian.]

A dictionary catalogue of closely printed double columns; an attempt has been made to set out the contents of volumes of essays, etc., under the author entry, but the catalogue suffers from the compressions a fear of excessive cost and size have caused. It is noteworthy that the whole catalogue was kept "set up" till the moment of going to press, so that there is no addenda.

Birkenhead Free Public Libraries. Catalogue of the Central Lending Library, including some of the more important works contained in the Reference Library. 8vo. 1898. Pp., 487. [W. May, Librarian.]

Owing to the great size and expense of a dictionary catalogue of 40,000 volumes it has been deemed expedient to return to the classified catalogue, with the addition of indexes of authors and subjects. An admirable attempt is made to draw the attention of readers using the Lending Library to the rich stores of the Reference Department, by adding after each list of books for home reading in any subject, the titles of the works thereon which may be consulted in the Library building. The catalogue very usefully contains the regulations in force, also copies of the necessary vouchers, and full directions of how books may be obtained.

Municipal Year Book for 1898. 8vo. [1898.] Pp., xli., 430. Price 2s. 6d. Ed. by W. Donald.

This useful encyclopedia and directory to the municipal government of the kingdom will be highly useful to the officials and members of local authorities, but the entries referring to libraries are not quite up-to-date. For instance, Mr. Bull, of Wimbledon, is still stated to be Librarian of Christ Church, Southwark.

BRIEF NOTES OF LIBRARY NEWS.

[While every care will be taken to verify library notes appearing in the general press—the only way librarians and others can ensure a proper record being made in this place, is by themselves authorising it.]

BARNTOWN, near Northwich.—Sir John Brunner, M.P., recently presented an undenominational school, and generously offered, if the Acts were adopted, a valuable gift of books, so that the schools could be used in the evening as a library and reading room. The Parish Council accepted the offer, as did a rate-payers' meeting, but on a poll being taken the scheme was rejected.

CAMBRIDGE.—*University Library.*—An innovation in the description of the books catalogued has been introduced. Instead of the now often misleading and meaningless 8vo, 4to, &c., the height of a book is stated in centimètres.

CHESTER.—A branch of the Emigrants' Information Office has been established, and arrangements have been made whereby persons residing outside the City may borrow books upon obtaining the signatures of two ratepayers as sureties, or depositing ten shillings with the librarian, at an annual charge of five shillings.

FULHAM.—In the Annual Report the Commissioners state that a combined lending department and delivery station has been placed at the Wandsworth Bridge Road Branch, while it is under consideration to provide similar facilities for the northern district. Borrowers may use either the central or branches with the same ticket, but must return books to the library from which they were obtained.

PARIS.—Readers in the National Library now wear "muzzles" to prevent the inhalation of "the book microbes" into their lungs when reading old books.

POLYTECHNIC LIBRARIES.—Readers of Mr. Carter's paper on this subject will be interested to note that the newly opened Northampton Institute opens with a library of 1,000 volumes, and this library is to be developed largely.

SHOREDITCH.—The opening of the new Central Library has been postponed till April 20th.

WASHINGTON, U.S.A.—The new Library of Congress, built at a cost of seven million dollars, rivals the Capitol in size, and surpasses it in beauty of interior. Mr. A. R. Spofford, for forty years Chief Librarian, has "accepted a less responsible post" in the new building, and Mr. J. R. Young, formerly a journalist and a diplomat, has succeeded him as chief. The new librarian has "a great deal of authority, and is personally vigilant in every department," but has apparently had no training in librarianship.

In fitting up the library all the most modern appliances have been used. The readers sit in a large rotunda, and the volume needed being found in the catalogue, a slip is filled in, placed in a box, a button touched, and in a very short space of time another button announces the arrival of the book itself in a cupboard below the table. It is all very quickly and quietly done by electric wires and dumb waiters from the readers in the reading-room to the "intelligent dames" up in the book stores, and the vast army of book-runners is abolished. There are 800,000 volumes in the library, and a copy of every new book published in the U.S. must be sent here.

OBITUARY.

EDINGTON (MR. JAMES).—This honoured leader in the Mechanics' Institute and Public Library movements recently passed away in his seventy-fourth year.

NOTES AND QUERIES.

J. L. writes in reference to the frequent attribution of Hall's "*Rattlin the Reefer*" to Capt. Marryat, by cataloguers, and points out that the following books are frequently attributed to Capt. Mayne Reid, without reference to their real authors:—"Lost Lenore" [by Charles Beach], ed. by M. R. "*The Woodrangers*" and "*The Tiger Hunter*" [by Luis de Bellemare], trans. by M. R.

W. B. M. writes in reference to "*The Lost Mountain*," by Capt. Mayne Reid, and its similarity to "*The Silver Canon*," by G. M. Fenn, and suggests they are both translations or adaptations of the same work. It is noteworthy that they are illustrated with identical woodcuts.

ANON. writes in reference to a letter in a recent number of "*The Library*" as to the name of "*Alan St. Aubyn*." As stated, the name of this writer is Mrs. Marshall, but she must not be confounded with the better known Mrs. Emma Marshall.

A LIBRARY EXAMINATION.

One method of insuring at least some educational qualification in aspirants for employment in libraries is to insist on an entrance examination, and the following advertisement, cut from the columns of a London daily, denotes an attempt in the right direction:—

PUBLIC LIBRARY.—YOUNG LADY ASSISTANT WANTED. Age 16 to 20. Salary £26 per annum, increasing to £52. Candidates will be expected to pass an examination in elementary arithmetic, geography, and history.—Applications, with at least two recent testimonials, to the Librarian.

In time to come we hope no person—male or female—will be offered employment as an assistant in a library unless he or she can satisfy an examiner in a more extended curriculum than this—and we shall watch for similar advertisements for the opposite sex—though advertisements for "Young Gentleman Assistants" would smack rather of "Mr. Pecksniff's" office than of public employ.

